

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-25 remain pending in the application, unchanged.

Each of the claims stands rejected over Hube (5,640,647) in view of Schena (20010001854) or Zhang (6,325,420).

Hube is understood to concern a photocopier that selectively scans pages within a document stack – excluding certain pages from scanning. In particular, Hume teaches that a range of pages *not* to be scanned can be denoted by placing a first adhesive sticker on the first such page, and a second adhesive sticker on the last such page. A photocopier according to Hube's invention incorporates a label sensor – prior to the document scanner – that looks for these stickers. When it finds a first sticker it causes that page, and subsequent pages, to be passed through the photocopier *without* being scanned/copied. When the label sensor finds one of the second sensors, it returns to normal photocopying operation with the next page.

It will be recognized that, in Hube's arrangement, any page bearing a sticker is *not* scanned or copied. Only pages that are *without* a sticker are scanned (and not even all of these).

Hube's teaching is thus directly *contrary* to applicants' claimed arrangements, e.g., claim 1, that call for scanning paper sheets having optically-detectable indicia thereon. Such sheets are *not* scanned in Hube.

The Action mis-states the teachings of Hube. The Action states:

Hube discloses a document management method comprising: presenting a paper sheet to an optical sensor, *the sensor producing scan data comprising document image data, the paper sheet having an optically detectable indicia thereon.*

If Hube's sheet has an optically detectable indicia (i.e., an adhesive label), then no scan data comprising document image data is produced.

(If the Examiner were to argue that the "sensor" at issue is Hube's label sensor, rather than the page scanner, then the quoted statement fails because it is not this sensor that produces "scan data comprising document image data" required by claim 1.)

Since the primary § 103 reference teaches directly *away* from the claimed arrangement, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Given such shortcomings, other deficiencies with the rejections premised on Hube (including shortcomings of the cited Schena and Zhang references) are not belabored.

Favorable reconsideration and passage to issuance are solicited.

Date: July 14, 2004

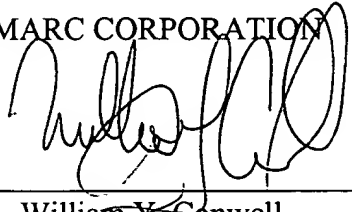
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Respectfully submitted,

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